



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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SACHI A. HAMAI
Interim Chief Executive Officer

May 7, 2015

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To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
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From: Sachi A. Hamai
Interim Chief Executive Officer

MOTION TO INSTRUCT THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND THE SACRAMENTO ADVOCATES TO SUPPORT AB 306 (HADLEY) WHICH WOULD PROVIDE ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY FAMILIES THE OPTION OF SENDING THEIR KIDS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THEIR CHOICE (ITEM NO. 10, AGENDA OF MAY 12, 2015)

Item No. 10 on the May 12, 2015 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe to instruct the Interim Chief Executive Officer and the Sacramento advocates to support AB 306 (Hadley), which would provide active duty military families the option of sending their kids to the school district of their choice.

Background

The County is home to the Los Angeles Air Force Base (LAAFB) and the Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC). The military family housing community of LAAFB and the SMC is centered in the County neighborhood of Fort MacArthur in San Pedro. Fort MacArthur is home to hundreds of military families, many of whom choose to send their children to public schools in Los Angeles County.

Current law requires children between six and 18 years of age, not otherwise exempt, to attend the public full-time day school in the district where their parent or guardian resides. Existing law permits inter-school district student transfers and provides that a school district chosen by a military family may give priority for attendance to children of military personnel.

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An inter-district transfer must be approved by both the student's home school district and the receiving school district. An inter-district transfer may be denied if the transfer would cause the displacement of any student who resides in the receiving district's attendance area or is currently enrolled in the receiving school. It is also within the current authority of either the home school district or the receiving school district to revoke an inter-district transfer at any time for any reason the local board or district superintendent deems appropriate.

AB 306 (Hadley)

AB 306 (Hadley), which as amended on May 5, 2015, would give active duty military families the option of sending their children to the public school of their choice. The measure would require the school district chosen by a military family to accept and approve an inter-district transfer application, if space is available, in the desired school and the parent with whom the pupil resides is serving on active duty in the military.

The County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) supports AB 306 because it would give military families in the County greater flexibility in selecting schools for their children. The DMVA indicates that this flexibility is especially important for families separated during extended military deployments. The Department further reports that AB 306 would ensure that military families have the option of sending a special needs child to the school that would best serve that child's needs. Overall, the DMVA notes that the bill would provide important stability to children who are frequently uprooted because of frequent changes in military assignments.

Assemblymember Hadley, the author of AB 306, reports that the inter-district transfer requests of active duty military families are being accepted by the school district chosen by the family but denied by the school district where the military parent resides. Military families are typically subject to frequent moves, and the Assemblymember argues that military families should not be subject to the further hardship of being denied choices with respect to where they send their children to school.

AB 306 is supported by the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers and other veterans groups. There is no registered opposition on file.

AB 306 passed the Assembly Education Committee by a vote of 6 to 0 on April 29, 2015. The bill is currently pending a hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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Conclusion

There is no existing Board policy to support legislation which would provide active duty military families the option of sending their children to the school district of their choice; **therefore, support for AB 306 is a matter for Board policy determination.**

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
DE:ma

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel